ART EXHIBITION

February

1922

New York (City) Union League club
Art exhibition (catalogues)
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(1922)
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EXHIBITION of PAINTINGS

PORTRAITS PAINTED IN THE UNITED STATES

By

EARLY AMERICAN ARTISTS

Gilbert Stuart; 16 pictures (1755–1828)
John Singleton Copley (1737–1815)
John Trumbull (1756–1843)
Washington Allston (1779–1843)
Jeremiah Theus (1719–1774)
John Smibert (1688–1751)

THE UNION LEAGUE CLUB
NEW YORK
FEBRUARY 9–13, 1922

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THE COMMITTEE ON ART *desires to express its thanks to a former Chairman for his co-operation in assembling and cataloguing the old portraits by Americans in the present exhibition. The twenty-one paintings herein described were all painted in the United States.*

Assembled & catalogued by Thomas B. Clarke (per his letters, 12/19/21, 5/12/22, 10/24/23, 4/19/28.)

Portraits of Yates & Pollock Family mentioned in Dunlap's History of Design p. 230, also mentioned in Tuckerman's p. 109

CATALOGUE

1716

1

JOHN JACOB ASTOR

(1763–1848)

Brooklyn Club / New York

Painted in New York City in 1794

Founder of the Astor Library, New York

by GILBERT STUART (1755–1828)

Gilbert Stuart was born in Rhode Island in 1755. He went to Scotland when he was sixteen years of age and soon returned to the United States. He went back to London before he was twenty years old and studied under Benjamin West, living in the English capital thirteen years. Then he painted in Ireland for five years, returning to this country in 1793. The sixteen examples of Stuart shown in this exhibition were all painted in the United States. Gilbert Stuart died in Boston, Mass., in 1828.

2

MRS. RICHARD YATES

Painted in New York City in 1793

Born Catherine Brass, married Richard Yates, December 5, 1757. She became the wife of the senior member of the firm of Yates & Pollock, New York.

by GILBERT STUART (1755–1828)

3

JOSEPH COOLIDGE

(1773–1840)

Painted in Boston in 1820

A well-known merchant of Boston

by GILBERT STUART (1755–1828)

n. pub. n. pr. n.d.

4

MRS. GEORGE POLLOCK

Painted in New York City in 1793

Born Catherine Yates, daughter of Richard Yates. Married George Pollock in 1787, and died October 31, 1805.

by GILBERT STUART (1755–1828)

5

WILLIAM CONSTABLE

(1752–1803)

Painted in New York City in 1794 6

Friend of Washington, Hamilton, Jay and Lafayette. Partner of Gouverneur Morris.

by GILBERT STUART (1755–1828)

6

GEORGE POLLOCK

(1762–1820)

Painted in New York City in 1793

George was the brother of Ann Elizabeth Pollock, later the wife of Doctor William Hartigan, of Dublin, Ireland. He married Catherine Yates, daughter of Richard Yates, his business partner in New York City, in 1787. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce. Both Dunlap and Tuckerman refer to the portraits of the Pollock and Yates families by Gilbert Stuart which are now for the first time publicly exhibited. Gilbert Stuart himself, writing on November 2, 1794, to his uncle, Joseph Anthony, in Philadelphia, thus expresses his obligations to the Pollock family of Ireland and the United States: "To their house I am indebted for more civilities than to the world beside."

by GILBERT STUART (1755–1828)

7

MRS. WILLIAM THORNTON

(1775–1865)

Painted in Washington, D. C., circa 1803

Wife of the noted architect of Washington, D. C.

by GILBERT STUART (1755–1828)

Mrs. Stirling
Va.

8
JAMES LLOYD
(1728–1810)

Mason, in his "Life of Stuart," says of Dr. Lloyd that he stood at the head of the medical profession in Boston in his time.

by GILBERT STUART (1755–1828)

9
WILLIAM THORNTON
(1761–1826)

Painted in Washington, D. C., circa 1803

Architect of the first Capitol at Washington, D. C., and designer of the Octagon House there.

by GILBERT STUART (1755–1828)

Mrs. Stirling Va.

10
CYRUS GRIFFIN
(1749–1810)

Member of the Continental Congress 1778 to 1781 and made its last President in 1788.

by GILBERT STUART (1755–1828)

11
JOSIAS ALLSTON
(1731–1776)

Uncle of the Artist, Washington Allston

A noted planter of Georgetown, S. C.

by JEREMIAH THEUS (1719–1774)

Jeremiah Theus, although well-known in his day and likened to Copley, owing to the manner of his painting in some of his portraits, has since then been little known or heard of until very recent years, when his works have been coming to light again, and only too often have been attributed to Copley. He was born in Switzerland, and came to this country in 1739. In the following year he was established in a studio and painting portraits at Charleston, S. C. He remained in America until his death, on May 18, 1774.

12

GAWEN BROWN

(1719–1801)

Painted in Boston in 1763

Father of the artist, Mather Brown

He was a famous clock-maker of Boston, Mass. The clock in the old South Church in Boston was installed by him in 1774.

by JOHN SINGLETON COPLEY (1737–1815)

The artist, John Singleton Copley, was born in Boston in 1737. He commenced painting portraits in this country when fifteen years of age and continued to paint here until 1774, when he went to London. He executed portraits in various European cities and finally established himself in London in 1775. Copley painted many portraits of distinguished Americans and Europeans abroad. He never returned to the United States. His death was recorded in London in 1815.

13

WASHINGTON ALLSTON

(1779–1843)

Self-portrait

Brook Club
11 ew York

Washington Allston, a South Carolinian, born at Waccamaw, on November 5, 1779, was sent to Rhode Island as a child, his native climate not agreeing with him. He was educated at Harvard, and returned to South Carolina where he painted some religious compositions. In 1801, he went with Malbone to England and studied under West at the Royal Academy. In the following year, he exhibited three pictures at Somerset House and sold one of them. Three years later, he accompanied Vanderlyn to France, reveling there in the art treasures Napoleon had accumulated from all Europe, and developing the richness of color that came to characterize many of his paintings. He visited Italy, came back to America and married, and again, in 1811, returned to England, taking with him S. F. B. Morse as a pupil. After a few years, he returned home, a success on both sides of the ocean. He died at Cambridge, Mass., July 9, 1843.

14

WILLIAM ROGERS

(1761–1817)

Painted in New York City in 1804

A prominent shipping merchant of New York. He married, in 1801, Mrs. Anne Cruger, daughter of Peter Markoe. The William Rogers country estate was located at West 102nd Street and his city residence was 57 Wall Street.

by JOHN TRUMBULL (1756–1843)

Colonel John Trumbull—he attained the rank in the service under Washington, whose forces he joined before he was twenty, and he bore the title to the last—was born in Lebanon, Conn., June 6, 1756. He was a son of the Governor of that State, "Brother Jonathan" Trumbull. Washington utilized Trumbull's ability in draughtsmanship in the making of topographical drawings of the British works about Boston. Trumbull was educated at Harvard. After the Revolution, he went to London to study art under West, was arrested and jailed in retaliation for the execution of Major Andre, and was released only upon the surety of West and Copley. He came home, but returned to West's studio in 1784, coming back in 1789 to New York, but spending the years from 1794 to 1804 and from 1808 to 1816 abroad. He preceded Rembrandt Peale in the Presidency of the American Academy. He died in New York, November 10, 1843.

15

EDWARD STOW

(1768–1847)

Painted in 1803

Born in the city of New York. He was the intimate friend and correspondent of Gilbert Stuart and the artist visited him in his Boston and other homes.

by GILBERT STUART (1755–1828)

16

STEPHEN DE LANCEY

(1663–1741)

Painted in ~~New York City in~~ 1734

He was the original owner of Fraunces Tavern, New York City. Trinity Church received its first tower clock from him, and New York City's first fire engine was the joint gift of himself and his partner. A prominent merchant, was active in public affairs, and became a social leader.

by JOHN SMIBERT (1688–1751)

Smibert was a Scottish painter, born in Edinburgh, in 1688, who joined Bishop Berkeley in the dream of founding a universal college in the Bermudas, and he arrived at Newport, Rhode Island, in 1729. The dream collapsing, he settled in Boston, taking there with him many copies he had made of European old masters, which, with his other works, had an influence on Allston, which Allston acknowledged, and probably also had an influence on Copley, who was fourteen when Smibert died. It has been said of Smibert, "The best portraits we have of eminent magistrates and divines of New England and New York who lived between 1729 and 1751 are from his pencil." Smibert died in Boston in 1751.

17

MATILDA CAROLINE CRUGER

(1776–1812)

Painted in New York City in 1793

She first married Lawrence Reid Yates in 1795. Her second alliance was with Judge Henry Walton in 1800.

by GILBERT STUART (1755–1828)

18

LAWRENCE REID YATES

Painted in New York City in 1793

Was in business with his brother, Richard Yates, in Duke Street, New York, until 1796. He was a member of St. George's Society in 1786. Married Miss Matilda Caroline Cruger in 1795. Died in 1796, and was buried in Trinity churchyard this city.

by GILBERT STUART (1755–1828)

19

STEPHEN VAN RENSSELAER

(1765–1839)

Painted in New York City in 1794

Lieutenant Governor of New York in 1795, Major General Militia 1801. He married Margaret Schuyler, the daughter of General Philip Schuyler, in 1783.

by GILBERT STUART (1755–1828)

20

MRS. ANDREW DEXTER

(1787–1819)

Painted in Boston in 1808

Born Charlotte Morton, a daughter of Mrs. Perez Morton, whose portrait was painted several times by Stuart. She married Andrew Dexter, of Boston, in 1808. Mr. Dexter went South and founded the city of Montgomery, Alabama. She joined him there, and died in 1819 and was buried in the cemetery of that city.

by GILBERT STUART (1755–1828)

21

RICHARD YATES

(1732–1808)

Painted in New York City in 1793

Richard Yates was the senior member of the mercantile firm of Yates & Pollock, 97 Front Street, New York. His younger brother was Lawrence Reid Yates and his daughter, Catherine, became the wife of George Pollock, his partner.

by GILBERT STUART (1755–1828)

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